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In reply please refer to:

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17 March 1994

Dear Dr Lederberg,

Following preliminary contacts made by Sir Gustav Nossal, I should like to confirm the organization, by WHO, of an important meeting in Biotechnology and World Health.

During the last few years, the use of biotechnical approaches and particularly of genetically modified organisms, to develop and produce new medical tools has generated considerable hopes for those concerned with health at a global level. This development is of special importance for new vaccines against some of the most dreadful infectious diseases. However, as with all genetic manipulations, appropriate ethical attitudes and regulation should ensure the safety of these new promising approaches.

These considerations led the Director-General of WHO to propose an exceptional meeting at the highest scientific and ethical levels to advise WHO on a general position regarding the global aspects of Biotechnology and Health with a particular attention given to the needs for vaccines produced by genetic engineering.

This meeting is planned to be held from 6-8 November 1994, at WHO Headquarters, Geneva. In this informal letter, we would like to receive confirmation of your willingness to participate actively in this meeting. You will find annexed, the preliminary agenda.

Should you be able to confirm your participation in this event, you would then receive an official invitation from WHO.

I look forward to hearing your comments.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

G. Nossal
NA

[Signature]
Dr P.-H. Lambert
Global Programme for Vaccines